

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 11, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Seasonably warm temperatures and dry conditions were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters across the state noted the warm, dry fall continues to stimulate the grasshopper infestations and it could be a distressing winter if moisture is not received soon. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 18 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 28 percent in the previous week and 100 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 25 percent adequate to surplus compared to 94 percent the previous year. Corn for grain harvest progressed, with an estimated 25 percent of the crop harvested, slightly ahead of the 5-year average at 24 percent. Corn for silage harvest is moving ahead, with an estimated 85 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 63 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 86 percent. Flaxseed harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 98 percent of the crop harvested, significantly ahead of the previous year at 48 percent. Safflower harvest is estimated at 70 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 44 percent and 54 percent, respectively. Sugarbeet harvest progressed well last week, with an estimated 22 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 11 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 25 percent. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop continues to progress behind the average, with an estimated 66 percent of the crop planted, ahead of the previous year at 57 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 75 percent. Emergence of the 2021 winter wheat crop advanced last week, with an estimated 40 percent of the crop emerged, ahead of the previous year at 22 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 46 percent. As dry conditions carry on and pasture conditions deplete, producers continue to move livestock off summer pasture and have started supplemental feeding. An estimated 37 percent of cattle and calves and 38 percent of sheep and lambs have been moved from pasture, with 15 percent of cattle and 16 percent of sheep receiving supplement feed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	25	18	4	24
Harvested for silage	85	70	63	86
Flaxseed				
Harvested	98	90	48	NA
Safflower				
Harvested	70	60	44	54
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	22	7	11	25
Winter wheat				
Planted	66	50	57	75
Emerged.....	40	22	22	46
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture.....	37	27	38	46
Receiving supplemental feed	15	NA	12	19
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture.....	38	30	27	52
Receiving supplemental feed	16	NA	15	21

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	6.9	7.0	2.4	4.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	29	24	--	10
Short.....	53	48	--	21
Adequate.....	18	28	67	55
Surplus.....	--	--	33	14
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	15	--	15
Short.....	61	61	6	27
Adequate.....	25	24	69	48
Surplus.....	--	--	25	10

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	3
Poor.....	1	3	6	7
Fair.....	20	29	21	32
Good.....	61	52	64	47
Excellent.....	18	16	9	11
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	16	22	3	16
Poor.....	25	21	5	19
Fair.....	45	42	28	33
Good.....	12	12	39	25
Excellent.....	2	3	25	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	9	3
Poor.....	--	--	11	7
Fair.....	27	30	16	24
Good.....	48	46	50	50
Excellent.....	25	24	14	16

NA – not available

(--) – zero